

REMARKS

Prior to amendment, Claims 1-21 were pending in this application, with Claims 1, 11 and 15 being independent.

Summary of Amendments	
Claim(s)	Change
3, 11, 12, 20	Amended
15-19, 21	Withdrawn
-	Cancelled
-	Added

No new matter has been added. In view of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement, Applicant retains the right to present Claims 15-19 and 21 in a divisional application.

ARGUMENTS

Claim 11 has been amended to address the antecedent basis issue. Claim 12 has been amended to clarify "quarter-like." Specifically, the term has been replaced with "circle segment." Support is at, for example, Fig. 4 and ¶0103: "...quarter-like appearance, i.e., like a quarter moon (or disk), said cross section of the chamber 7 is defined by a curved line whose ends are joined by a substantially straight line." The second part of the previous sentence presents the classic definition of a segment of a circle defined by an arc and a chord (a straight line) extending between the ends of the arc.

Regarding the rejections under §102 and §103 based on Jakobsson, Jakobsson fails to teach the inner structure of the ring. Jakobsson notably fails to teach the following claimed features:

- "a dorsal wall consisting of a bead": The dorsal wall defining the chamber is not illustrated at Jakobsson Fig. 3. Only the outer geometry of the inflatable band is illustrated.
- "a longitudinal slot" (longitudinal refers to the length of the elongated ring): Fig. 3 of Jakobsson only teaches axial (axis of revolution) slots between bumps.

- “the longitudinal slot is located on the inner face of the dorsal wall forming the chamber”: The axial slots/bumps of Jakobsson are located on the inner face of the internal wall at Figure 3.

Jakobsson is not relevant since its inner structure is not accurately disclosed. Jakobsson only illustrates outer geometries for its inflatable band, e.g., the geometry of the contact with the patient's organs. A cross section of a dorsal wall defining the chamber is only illustrated at Fig. 5. But even this cross section does not anticipate the claimed features of the dorsal wall.

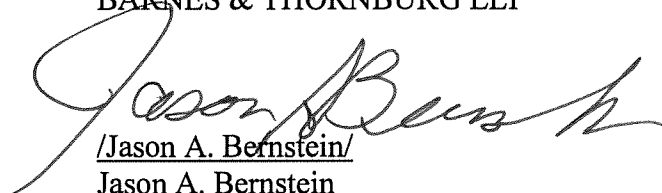
Additionally, there is no motivation in Jakobsson to derive the distinctive features as presently claimed; accordingly, Claim 1 is not obvious over Jakobsson.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such action. If the Examiner has any questions that can be answered by telephone, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number listed below. It is requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response with the fee for such extensions and shortages in other fees being charged, or any overpayment in fees being credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. **50-4913**.

Respectfully submitted,

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